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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION N
10/723,381	11/25/2003	James L. Say	12008.39USC1	8006
7590	10/04/2004		EXAMINER	MALLARI, PATRICIA C
Attention: Mara E. Liepa MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3736	

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/723,381	SAY ET AL.
	Examiner Patricia C. Mallari	Art Unit 3736

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/25/03</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: on lines 4-5 of claim 1, "the sensor signal" should be replaced with "a sensor signal". Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claim 1 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim1 of US Patent No. 6,654,625 to Say

et al. (herein referred to as Say '625), in view of US Patent No. 6,484,046 (herein referred to as Say '046). Claim 1 of Say '625 claims an electrochemical sensor (col. 14, line 30 of Say '625) comprising a working electrode (col. 14, line 35 of Say '625) and an analyte responsive sensing layer proximate the working electrode, the sensing layer exposed for contact with the analyte only at the edge of the sensor (col. 14, lines 37-42 of Say '625), wherein the sensor is configured and arranged for implantation into the body of a mammal for contact with body fluid of the mammal (col. 14, lines 30-31 of Say '625). Claim 1 of Say '625 lacks the sensor signal being limited, at least in part by mass transport of analyte to the sensing layer.

However, Say '046 teaches an electrochemical sensor comprising a sensing layer 64 proximate a working electrode 58 (col. 16, lines 4-9 of Say '049), wherein the sensor signal is limited at least in part by mass transport of analyte to the sensing layer (col. 25, lines 55-67 of Say '049). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine Say '049 with claim 1 of Say '625 in order to extend the upper range of analyte concentrations that the sensor can still accurately measure and expand the range in which the current increases approximately linearly with the analyte level (col. 25, lines 63-67 of Say '625).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipate by Heller et al.

Heller discloses an electrochemical sensor comprising a working electrode 2, an analyte-responsive sensing layer 8 proximate the working electrode 2, the sensing layer exposed for contact with the analyte only at an edge 6 of the sensor (fig. 1; col. 4, lines 2-22), wherein the sensor signal is limited, at least in part, by mass transport of analyte to the sensing layer (col. 2, line 67- col. 3, line 11; col. 4, lines 9-15; col. 5, lines 40-53). The sensor is configured and arranged for implantation into the body of a mammal for contact with body fluid of the mammal (col. 4, lines 36-39; col. 7, lines 20-56; col. 13, lines 10-18; col. 16, lines 39-40).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia C. Mallari whose telephone number is (703) 605-0422. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10:00 am-6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (703) 308-3130. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patricia Mallari
Patricia Mallari
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3736

Robert L. Nassen
ROBERT L. NASSEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER